

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 22-33, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Please amend Claims 1-21 and add new Claims 34-45 as indicated below. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Q1 Claim 1 (currently amended): An image formation system, which ~~is composed~~ of includes a color image formation apparatus and a monochrome image formation apparatus ~~connected each adapted to be connectable~~ to a network, the system comprising:

~~judgment means for judging if it is a color page or a black/white page for each page in a job where the color page coexists with the black/white page outputted from a computer connected to the network;~~

~~a separation means for forming the color page by the color image formation apparatus and forming the black/white page by the monochrome image formation apparatus in accordance with the judgment result in said judgment means~~ unit adapted to cause the color image formation apparatus to perform image formation of a color page included in a job in which the color page and a black/white page generated by a computer connected to the network mixedly exist, and to cause the monochrome image formation apparatus to perform image formation of the black/white page; [[and]]

~~a mixing means for mixing each of sheets, on which images are separately formed~~ unit adapted to mix sheets on which image formation has been separately performed by

the color image formation apparatus and the monochrome image formation apparatus, in accordance with the judgment result in said judgment means so as to assort each of the sheets in a predetermined order of the job, wherein

the mixing unit is adapted to mix a sheet that has been set on a sheet feed unit of the color image formation apparatus and on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus with a sheet on which image formation has been performed by the color image formation apparatus, and

the mixing unit is adapted to mix a sheet that has been set on the sheet feed unit of the monochrome image formation apparatus and on which image formation has been performed by the color image formation apparatus with a sheet on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus; and

a control unit adapted to allow the monochrome image formation apparatus to perform image formation on a sheet to be mixed with a sheet on which image formation has been performed by the color image formation apparatus after the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the color image formation apparatus is set on the sheet feed unit of the monochrome image formation apparatus, and to inhibit the monochrome image formation apparatus from performing image formation on the sheet to be mixed with the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the color image formation apparatus before the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the color image formation apparatus is set on the sheet feed unit of the monochrome image formation apparatus, when the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the color image formation apparatus is set on the sheet feed

unit of the monochrome image formation apparatus and the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the color image formation apparatus is to be mixed with the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus by the mixing unit.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A system according to Claim 1, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ a same data is transferred to each of the color image formation apparatus and the monochrome image formation apparatus from the computer ~~for one job.~~

Q1 Claim 3 (currently amended): A system according to Claim 1, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the separation means performs a page separation by forming an image of the color page, judged by said judgment means in the color image formation apparatus, and transferring page number information to the monochrome image formation apparatus, as to a page judged as the black/white page unit is adapted:

to cause the color image formation apparatus to perform image formation on a page that has been judged to be a color page by a judgment unit included in the color image formation apparatus, with the judgment unit being adapted to judge whether a page is a color page or a black/white page for each page included in the job in which the color page and the black/white page mixedly exist,

to cause the color image formation apparatus to transmit information of a page judged to be a black/white page to the monochrome image formation apparatus, and

to cause the monochrome image formation apparatus to perform image formation on the black/white page in response to the transmitted information.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A system according to Claim 1, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the separation means performs a page separation by forming an image of the black/white page, judged by said judgment means in the monochrome image formation apparatus, and transferring the page number information to the color image formation apparatus, as to a page judged as the color page unit is adapted:

Q1 to cause the monochrome image formation apparatus to perform the image formation on a page that has been judged to be a black/white page by a judgment unit included in the monochrome image formation apparatus, with the judgment unit being adapted to judge whether a page is a color page or a black/white page for each page included in the job in which the color page and the black/white page mixedly exist,

to cause the monochrome image formation apparatus to transmit information of a page judged to be a color page to the color image formation apparatus, and

to cause the color image formation apparatus to perform image formation on the color page in response to the transmitted information.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A system according to Claim 1, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the mixing means performs unit is adapted to perform a mixing operation by setting a sheaf of sheets, on which images are formed by the color image formation apparatus, in an inserter acting

as the sheet feed unit and attached to the monochrome image formation apparatus by ~~[[an]]~~ a user, and feeding ~~[[the]]~~ color pages from the inserter at a predetermined timing of an image formation operation for ~~[[one]]~~ a job performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A system according to Claim 1, wherein

Q1 the control unit is adapted to allow the color image formation apparatus to perform image formation on the sheet to be mixed with the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus after the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus is set on the sheet feed unit of the color image formation apparatus, and to inhibit the color image formation apparatus from performing image formation on the sheet to be mixed with the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus before the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus is set on the sheet feed unit of the color image formation apparatus, when the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus is set on the sheet feed unit of the color image formation apparatus and the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus is to be mixed with the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the color image formation apparatus by the mixing unit, and

~~[[said]]~~ the mixing means performs unit is adapted to perform a mixing operation by setting a sheaf of sheets, on which images are formed by the monochrome image

formation apparatus, in an inserter acting as the sheet feed unit and attached to the color image formation apparatus by ~~[[an]]~~ a user, and feeding ~~[[the]]~~ black/white pages from the inserter at a predetermined timing of an image formation operation for ~~[[one]]~~ a job performed by the color image formation apparatus.

Q1 Claim 7 (currently amended): A system according to Claim 1, wherein, ~~any mode can be selected from plural operation modes in the computer so as to differentiate the data transference method to each image formation apparatus every each operation mode from the computer~~

when data for which image formation should be performed separately by the monochrome image formation apparatus and the color image formation apparatus is outputted from the computer, the computer enables data transmission to be performed to the monochrome image formation apparatus and the color image formation apparatus in a first mode of in a second mode, and

either the first mode or the second mode is selectable by the computer.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A system according to Claim 7, wherein, if the ~~operation mode selected by the computer is a~~ selects the first mode, ~~[[the]]~~ a same data is transferred to each of the color image formation apparatus and the monochrome image formation apparatus, and, if ~~it is a~~ the computer selects the second mode, data transferred to the color image formation apparatus is differentiated from data transferred to the monochrome image formation

apparatus.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A system according to Claim 8, wherein, in [[the]] a case [[of]] in which the first mode is selected, data including [[the]] color pages ~~coexisted~~ coexisting with [[the]] black/white pages is transferred to each of the color image formation apparatus and the monochrome image formation apparatus, and, in [[the]] a case [[of]] in which the second mode is selected, color page data is transferred to the color image formation apparatus and black/white page data is transferred to the monochrome image formation apparatus.

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Claim 10 (currently amended): A control method for an image formation system, which ~~is composed of~~ includes a color image formation apparatus and a monochrome image formation apparatus ~~connected~~ each adapted to be connectable to a network, [[said]] the method comprising:

~~a first step of judging if it is a color page or a black/white page for each page in a job where the color page coexists with the black/white page;~~

~~a second step of forming an image of the color page in the job on a sheet by the color image formation apparatus on the basis of the judgment result in said first step;~~

~~a third step of forming an image of the black/white page in the job on the sheet by the monochrome image formation apparatus on the basis of the judgment result in said first step;~~

~~a fourth step of controlling an image formation timing of the monochrome image formation apparatus and a feed timing of the sheet on which an image is formed by the color image formation apparatus; and~~

~~a fifth step of conveying and discharging the sheet, on which the image is formed by the color image formation apparatus, and the sheet, on which the image is formed by the monochrome image formation apparatus, in page order of the job~~

a color image formation step of causing the color image formation apparatus to perform, on a sheet, image formation of a color page included in a job in which the color page and a black/white page mixedly exist;

Q1 a black/white image formation step of causing the monochrome image formation apparatus to perform, on a sheet, image formation of the black/white page in the job;

a collation step of collating:

a sheet that has been set on a sheet feed unit of the color image formation apparatus and on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus with a sheet on which image formation has been performed by the color image formation apparatus, or

a sheet that has been set on a sheet feed unit of the monochrome image formation apparatus and on which image formation has been performed by the color image formation apparatus with a sheet on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus; and

a control step of allowing the monochrome image formation apparatus to

perform image formation on a sheet to be collated with a sheet on which image formation has been performed by the color image formation apparatus after the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the color image formation apparatus is set on the sheet feed unit of the monochrome image formation apparatus, and inhibiting the monochrome image formation apparatus from performing image formation on the sheet to be collated with the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the color image formation apparatus before the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the color image formation apparatus is set on the sheet feed unit of the monochrome image formation apparatus, when the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the color image formation apparatus is set on the sheet feed unit of the monochrome image formation apparatus and the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the color image formation apparatus and the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus are to be collated with each other in the collation step.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A control method for an image formation system, which ~~is composed of~~ includes a color image formation apparatus and a monochrome image formation apparatus ~~connected each~~ adapted to be connectable to a network, ~~[[said]]~~ the method comprising:

~~a first step of judging if it is a color page or a black/white page for each page in a job where the color page coexists with the black/white page;~~

~~a second step of forming an image of the black/white page in the job on a sheet~~

by the monochrome image formation apparatus on the basis of the judgment result in said first step;

~~a third step of forming an image of the color page in the job on a sheet by the color image formation apparatus on the basis of the judgment result in said first step;~~

~~a fourth step of controlling an image formation timing of the color image formation apparatus and a feed timing of the sheet on which an image is formed by the monochrome image formation apparatus; and~~

~~a fifth step of conveying and discharging the sheet, on which the image is formed by the color image formation apparatus, and the sheet, on which the image is formed by the monochrome image formation apparatus, in page order of the job~~

a color image formation step of causing the color image formation apparatus to perform, on a sheet, image formation of a color page included in a job in which the color page and a black/white page mixedly exist;

a black/white image formation step of causing the monochrome image formation apparatus to perform, on a sheet, image formation of the black/white page in the job;

a collation step of collating:

a sheet that has been set on a sheet feed unit of the color image formation apparatus and on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus with a sheet on which image formation has been performed by the color image formation apparatus, or

a sheet that has been set on a sheet feed unit of the monochrome image

formation apparatus and on which image formation has been performed by the color image formation apparatus with a sheet on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus; and

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a control step of allowing the color image formation apparatus to perform image formation on a sheet to be collated with a sheet on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus after the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus is set on a sheet feed unit of the color image formation apparatus, and inhibiting the color image formation apparatus from performing image formation to the sheet to be collated with the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus before the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus is set on the sheet feed unit of the color image formation apparatus, when the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus is set on the sheet feed unit of the color image formation apparatus and the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus and the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the color image formation apparatus are to be collated with each other in the collation step.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A control method of an image formation system, which ~~is composed of~~ includes a ~~[[color]]~~ first image formation apparatus and a ~~monochrome~~ second image formation apparatus ~~connected to a network, wherein the first image~~

formation apparatus is adapted to perform a collation process on a sheet that is set on a sheet feed unit provided in the first image formation apparatus and on which printing has been performed by the second image formation apparatus with a sheet on which printing has been performed by the first image formation apparatus, and wherein the second image formation apparatus is adapted to perform a collation process on a sheet that is set on a sheet feed unit provided in the second image formation apparatus and on which printing has been performed by the first image formation apparatus with a sheet on which printing has been performed by the second image formation apparatus, [[said]] the method comprising:

~~a first step of judging if it is a color page or a black/white page for each page in a job where the color page coexists with the black/white page;~~

~~a second step of forming an image of the color page in the job on a sheet by the color image formation apparatus on the basis of the judgment result in said first step;~~

~~a third step of forming an image of the black/white page in the job on the sheet by the monochrome image formation apparatus on the basis of the judgment result in said first step;~~

~~a fourth step of controlling a feed timing of the sheet on which an image is formed by the color image formation apparatus and a feed timing of the sheet on which an image is formed by the monochrome image formation apparatus on the basis of the judgment result in said first step; and~~

~~a fifth step of conveying and discharging the sheet, on which the image is formed by the color image formation apparatus, and the sheet, on which the image is formed by~~

~~the monochrome image formation apparatus, in page order of the job~~

a dispersion step of causing both the first and second image formation
apparatuses to perform printing of data generated by a superordinate apparatus; and

a control step of allowing the first image formation apparatus to perform
printing on the sheet to be collated with the sheet on which printing has been performed by the
second image formation apparatus after the sheet on which printing has been performed by the
second image formation apparatus is set on the sheet feed unit of the first image formation
apparatus, and inhibiting the first image formation apparatus from performing printing on the
sheet to be collated with the sheet on which printing has been performed by the second image
formation apparatus before the sheet on which printing has been performed by the second image
formation apparatus is set on the sheet feed unit of the first image formation apparatus, when the
sheet that is set on the sheet feed unit of the first image formation apparatus and on which
printing has been performed by the second image formation apparatus and the sheet on which
printing has been performed by the first image formation apparatus are to be collated with each
other by the first image formation apparatus.

Claim 13 (currently amended): ~~A control method of an image formation
system which is composed of a color image formation apparatus and a monochrome image
formation apparatus connected to a network, said method comprising:~~

~~a first step of judging if it is a color page or a black/white page for each
page in a job where the color page coexists with the black/white page outputted from a computer~~

connected to the network;

a second step of forming an image of the color page by the color image formation apparatus and an image of the black/white page by the monochrome image formation apparatus in accordance with the judgment result in said first step; and

a third step of mixing each of sheets, on which images are separately formed by the color image formation apparatus and the monochrome image formation apparatus, in accordance with the judgment result in said first step so as to assort each of the sheets in predetermined order of job according to Claim 12, wherein

the dispersion step is executed to cause a monochrome image formation apparatus acting as the first image formation apparatus to perform printing of a black/white page in a job in which a color page and the black/white page generated by a computer acting as the superordinate apparatus and adapted to be connectable to a network, and to cause a color image formation apparatus acting as the second image formation apparatus to perform printing of the color page; and

the control step is executed to allow the monochrome image formation apparatus to perform printing on a sheet to be collated with a sheet on which printing has been performed by the color image formation apparatus after the sheet on which printing has been performed by the color image formation apparatus is set on the sheet feed unit of the monochrome image formation apparatus, and to inhibit the monochrome image formation apparatus from performing printing on the sheet to be collated with the sheet on which printing has been performed by the color image formation apparatus before the sheet on which printing

has been performed by the color image formation apparatus is set on the sheet feed unit of the monochrome image formation apparatus, when the sheet that is set on the sheet feed unit of the monochrome image formation apparatus and on which printing has been performed by the color image formation apparatus and the sheet on which printing has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus are to be collated with each other by the monochrome image formation apparatus.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A method according to Claim 13, wherein
[[the]] a same data is transferred to each of the color image formation apparatus and the monochrome image formation apparatus from the computer ~~for one job~~.

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Claim 15 (currently amended): A method according to Claim 13, wherein a ~~page separation is performed in said second step by forming an image of the color page, judged in said first step in the color image formation apparatus, and transferring page number information to the monochrome image formation apparatus, as to a page judged as the black/white page~~ the dispersion step is executed to cause the color image formation apparatus to perform image formation on a page judged to be a color page by a judgment unit provided in the color image formation apparatus, with the judgment unit being adapted to judge whether a page is the color page or a black/white page for each page included in a job in which the color page and the black/white page mixedly exist, to cause the color image formation apparatus to transmit information of a page judged to be the black/white page to the monochrome image formation

apparatus, and to cause the monochrome image formation apparatus to perform image formation on the black/white page in response to the transmitted information.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A method according to Claim 13, wherein a ~~page separation is performed in said second step by forming an image of the black/white page, judged in said first step in the monochrome image formation apparatus, and transferring the page number information to the color image formation apparatus, as to a page judged as the color page~~ the dispersion step is executed to cause the monochrome image formation apparatus to perform image formation on a page judged to be a black/white page by a judgment unit provided in the monochrome image formation apparatus, with the judgment unit being adapted to judge whether a page is a color page or the black/white page for each page included in a job in which the color page and the black/white page mixedly exist, to cause the monochrome image formation apparatus to transmit information of a page judged to be the black/white page to the color image formation apparatus, and to cause the color image formation apparatus to perform image formation on a color page in response to the transmitted information.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A method according to Claim 13, wherein the monochrome image formation apparatus performs a mixing operation ~~is performed in said third step~~ by setting a sheaf of sheets, on which images ~~[[are]]~~ have been formed by the color image formation apparatus, in an inserter acting as the sheet feed unit and attached to the monochrome image formation apparatus by ~~[[an]]~~ a user, and feeding ~~[[the]]~~ color pages from the inserter at a

predetermined timing of an image formation operation for [[one]] a job performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method according to Claim 13, wherein the control step is executed to allow the color image formation apparatus to perform image formation on a sheet to be mixed with a sheet on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus after the sheet on which image formation had been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus is set on the sheet feed unit of the color image formation apparatus, and to inhibit the color image formation apparatus from performing image formation on the sheet to be mixed with the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus before the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus is set on the sheet feed unit of the color image formation apparatus, when the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus is set on the sheet feed unit of the color image formation apparatus and the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus and the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the color image formation apparatus are to be mixed with each other by a mixing unit, and

the color image formation apparatus performs a mixing operation is performed in said third step by setting a sheaf of sheets, on which images [[are]] have been formed by the monochrome image formation apparatus, in an inserter acting as the sheet feed unit and attached

to the color image formation apparatus by ~~[[an]]~~ a user, and feeding ~~[[the]]~~ black/white pages from the inserter at a predetermined timing of an image formation operation for ~~[[one]]~~ a job performed by the color image formation apparatus.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A method according to Claim 13, wherein, ~~any mode can be selected from plural operation modes in the computer so as to differentiate a data transference method from the to each image formation apparatus every each operation mode from the computer~~

when data for which image formation should be performed separately by the monochrome image formation apparatus and the color image formation apparatus is outputted from the computer, the computer enables data transmission to be performed to the monochrome image formation apparatus and the color image formation apparatus in a first mode or in a second mode, and

the method further comprises a selection step of selecting the first mode or the second mode by the computer.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A method according to Claim 19, wherein, if the ~~operation mode selected by the computer is a~~ selects the first mode, ~~[[the]]~~ a same data is transferred to each of the color image formation apparatus and the monochrome image formation apparatus, and, if it is a ~~the computer selects the~~ second mode, data ~~transference~~ transferred to the color image formation apparatus is differentiated from data transferred to the monochrome image

formation apparatus.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A method according to Claim 20, wherein, in [[the]] a case [[of]] in which the first mode is selected, data including [[the]] color pages ~~coexisted~~ coexisting with [[the]] black/white pages is transferred to each of the color image formation apparatus and the monochrome image formation apparatus, and, in [[the]] a case [[of]] in which the second mode is selected, color page data is transferred to the color image formation apparatus and black/white page data is transferred to the monochrome image formation apparatus.

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Claims 22-33 (canceled)

Claim 34 (new): A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for implementing a control method for an image formation system, which includes a color image formation apparatus and a monochrome image formation apparatus each adapted to be connectable to a network, the method comprising:

a color image formation step of causing the color image formation apparatus to perform, on a sheet, image formation of a color page included in a job in which the color page and a black/white page mixedly exist;

a black/white image formation step of causing the monochrome image formation apparatus to perform, on a sheet, image formation of the black/white page in the job;

a collation step of collating:

a sheet that has been set on a sheet feed unit of the color image formation apparatus and on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus with a sheet on which image formation has been performed by the color image formation apparatus, or

a sheet that has been set on a sheet feed unit of the monochrome image formation apparatus and on which image formation has been performed by the color image formation apparatus with a sheet on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus; and

a₁ a control step of allowing the monochrome image formation apparatus to perform image formation on a sheet to be collated with a sheet on which image formation has been performed by the color image formation apparatus after the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the color image formation apparatus is set on the sheet feed unit of the monochrome image formation apparatus, and inhibiting the monochrome image formation apparatus from performing image formation on the sheet to be collated with the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the color image formation apparatus before the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the color image formation apparatus is set on the sheet feed unit of the monochrome image formation apparatus, when the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the color image formation apparatus is set on the sheet feed unit of the monochrome image formation apparatus and the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the color image formation apparatus and the sheet on which image formation

has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus are to be collated with each other in the collation step.

Claim 35 (new): A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for implementing a control method for an image formation system, which includes a color image formation apparatus and a monochrome image formation apparatus each adapted to be connectable to a network, the method comprising:

a color image formation step of causing the color image formation apparatus to perform, on a sheet, image formation of a color page included in a job in which the color page and a black/white page mixedly exist;

Q1 a black/white image formation step of causing the monochrome image formation apparatus to perform, on a sheet, image formation of the black/white page in the job;

a collation step of collating:

a sheet that has been set on a sheet feed unit of the color image formation apparatus and on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus with a sheet on which image formation has been performed by the color image formation apparatus, or

a sheet that has been set on a sheet feed unit of the monochrome image formation apparatus and on which image formation has been performed by the color image formation apparatus with a sheet on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus; and

a control step of allowing the color image formation apparatus to perform image formation on a sheet to be collated with a sheet on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus after the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus is set on a sheet feed unit of the color image formation apparatus, and inhibiting the color image formation apparatus from performing image formation to the sheet to be collated with the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus before the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus is set on the sheet feed unit of the color image formation apparatus, when the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus is set on the sheet feed unit of the color image formation apparatus and the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus and the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the color image formation apparatus are to be collated with each other in the collation step.

Claim 36 (new): A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for implementing control method of an image formation system, which includes a first image formation apparatus and a second image formation apparatus, wherein the first image formation apparatus is adapted to perform a collation process on a sheet that is set on a sheet feed unit provided in the first image formation apparatus and on which printing has been performed by the second image formation apparatus with a sheet on which printing has been performed by the first

image formation apparatus, and wherein the second image formation apparatus is adapted to perform a collation process on a sheet that is set on a sheet feed unit provided in the second image formation apparatus and on which printing has been performed by the first image formation apparatus with a sheet on which printing has been performed by the second image formation apparatus, the method comprising:

a dispersion step of causing both the first and second image formation apparatuses to perform printing of data generated by a superordinate apparatus; and

Q1 a control step of allowing the first image formation apparatus to perform printing on the sheet to be collated with the sheet on which printing has been performed by the second image formation apparatus after the sheet on which printing has been performed by the second image formation apparatus is set on the sheet feed unit of the first image formation apparatus, and inhibiting the first image formation apparatus from performing printing on the sheet to be collated with the sheet on which printing has been performed by the second image formation apparatus before the sheet on which printing has been performed by the second image formation apparatus is set on the sheet feed unit of the first image formation apparatus, when the sheet that is set on the sheet feed unit of the first image formation apparatus and on which printing has been performed by the second image formation apparatus and the sheet on which printing has been performed by the first image formation apparatus are to be collated with each other by the first image formation apparatus.

Claim 37 (new): A storage medium according to Claim 36, wherein

the dispersion step is executed to cause a monochrome image formation apparatus acting as the first image formation apparatus to perform printing of a black/white page in a job in which a color page and the black/white page generated by a computer acting as the superordinate apparatus and adapted to be connectable to a network, and to cause a color image formation apparatus acting as the second image formation apparatus to perform printing of the color page; and

the control step is executed to allow the monochrome image formation apparatus to perform printing on a sheet to be collated with a sheet on which printing has been performed by the color image formation apparatus after the sheet on which printing has been performed by the color image formation apparatus is set on the sheet feed unit of the monochrome image formation apparatus, and to inhibit the monochrome image formation apparatus from performing printing on the sheet to be collated with the sheet on which printing has been performed by the color image formation apparatus before the sheet on which printing has been performed by the color image formation apparatus is set on the sheet feed unit of the monochrome image formation apparatus, when the sheet that is set on the sheet feed unit of the monochrome image formation apparatus and on which printing has been performed by the color image formation apparatus and the sheet on which printing has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus are to be collated with each other by the monochrome image formation apparatus.

Claim 38 (new): A storage medium according to Claim 37, wherein a same

data is transferred to each of the color image formation apparatus and the monochrome image formation apparatus from the computer.

Claim 39 (new): A storage medium according to Claim 37, wherein the dispersion step is executed to cause the color image formation apparatus to perform image formation on a page judged to be a color page by a judgment unit provided in the color image formation apparatus, with the judgment unit being adapted to judge whether a page is the color page or a black/white page for each page included in a job in which the color page and the black/white page mixedly exist, to cause the color image formation apparatus to transmit information of a page judged to be the black/white page to the monochrome image formation apparatus, and to cause the monochrome image formation apparatus to perform image formation on the black/white page in response to the transmitted information.

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Claim 40 (new): A storage medium according to Claim 37, wherein the dispersion step is executed to cause the monochrome image formation apparatus to perform image formation on a page judged to be a black/white page by a judgment unit provided in the monochrome image formation apparatus, with the judgment unit being adapted to judge whether a page is a color page or the black/white page for each page included in a job in which the color page and the black/white page mixedly exist, to cause the monochrome image formation apparatus to transmit information of a page judged to be the black/white page to the color image formation apparatus, and to cause the color image formation apparatus to perform image

formation on a color page in response to the transmitted information.

Claim 41 (new): A storage medium according to Claim 37, wherein the monochrome image formation apparatus performs a mixing operation by setting a sheaf of sheets, on which images have been formed by the color image formation apparatus, in an inserter acting as the sheet feed unit and attached to the monochrome image formation apparatus by a user, and feeding color pages from the inserter at a predetermined timing of an image formation operation for a job performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus.

Q₁ Claim 42 (new): A storage medium according to Claim 37, wherein the control step is executed to allow the color image formation apparatus to perform image formation on a sheet to be mixed with a sheet on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus after the sheet on which image formation had been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus is set on the sheet feed unit of the color image formation apparatus, and to inhibit the color image formation apparatus from performing image formation on the sheet to be mixed with the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus before the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus is set on the sheet feed unit of the color image formation apparatus, when the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus is set on the sheet feed unit of the color image formation apparatus and the sheet on which image

formation has been performed by the monochrome image formation apparatus and the sheet on which image formation has been performed by the color image formation apparatus are to be mixed with each other by a mixing unit, and

the color image formation apparatus performs a mixing operation by setting a sheaf of sheets, on which images have been formed by the monochrome image formation apparatus, in an inserter acting as the sheet feed unit and attached to the color image formation apparatus by a user, and feeding black/white pages from the inserter at a predetermined timing of an image formation operation for a job performed by the color image formation apparatus.

Q1 Claim 43 (new): A storage medium according to Claim 37, wherein,

when data for which image formation should be performed separately by the monochrome image formation apparatus and the color image formation apparatus is outputted from the computer, the computer enables data transmission to be performed to the monochrome image formation apparatus and the color image formation apparatus in a first mode or in a second mode, and

the method further comprises a selection step of selecting the first mode or the second mode by the computer.

Claim 44 (new): A storage medium according to Claim 43, wherein, if the computer selects the first mode, a same data is transferred to each of the color image formation apparatus and the monochrome image formation apparatus, and, if the computer selects the

second mode, data transferred to the color image formation apparatus is differentiated from data transferred to the monochrome image formation apparatus.

Q1 Claim 45 (new): A storage medium according to Claim 44, wherein, in a case in which the first mode is selected, data including color pages coexisting with black/white pages is transferred to each of the color image formation apparatus and the monochrome image formation apparatus, and, in a case in which the second mode is selected, color page data is transferred to the color image formation apparatus and black/white page data is transferred to the monochrome image formation apparatus.